

Bruce Calvert correspondence S0998

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts
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Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204
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Summary Information

Repository	Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Calvert, Bruce, 1866-1940
Title	Bruce Calvert correspondence
Date	1929/09/24-1930/09/25
Extent	0.01 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Mixed materials [Folder]	S998

Preferred Citation

Bruce Calvert correspondence, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

Biographical Note

Bruce Calvert was born to William Hanson and Caroline Ramey Calvert at Clearspring, Jackson County, Indiana on June 7, 1866. He and his sister Ella had two siblings who died in infancy. When he was 19, the family moved to East Connersville, Fayette County, Indiana. He attended Indiana State Normal School (now Indiana State University) in Terre Haute, IN 1886, his parents hoping he would become a clergyman. He developed an agnostic philosophy, related to New Thought, and became a publisher's agent, then manager, first in Chicago, then Philadelphia. He worked with monthly journals, often writing and editing articles. He became a lecturer with the Consolidated Lyceum Bureau, espousing simple living, good thinking and avoiding doctors, preachers and mind-dulling systems of education. He met and admired Elbert Hubbard and was of like mind with Walt Whitman and others.

He bought land for a retreat to nature near Griffith, Indiana and moved his residence from Chicago, Illinois. In 1908 he established "The Open Road: The Official Organ of the Society of the Universal Brotherhood of Man" (not an actual organization). He published it monthly from Sept. 1908 to Jan. 1914 from his home, called "Pigeon-Roost-in-the-Woods", often using sayings by poet Max Ehrmann and writings from major figures like Eugene Debs and other figures prominent in anarchist, radical, rational, reform, or unorthodox thinking. His philosophy was "right thinking and right living" and lost considerable weight through this regimen. He espoused nudity as a healthy lifestyle. The *Indianapolis Star* termed him, in 1912, "Indiana's prize crank."

Around June 1912 he married Anna Gulbrandsen, a Norwegian born soloist, and he became her manager. He left Indiana in 1914 for Long Eddy, New York in the Catskills. He published five more issues of "The Open Road" through Sept. 1915, then wrote a column, "The Open Road" for the socialist newspaper, *The New York Call*. He revived the magazine *The Open Call* after moving to Mountain View, NJ in 1926 from their 1920 home of Pequannock, New Jersey. (which he named "Pigeon-Roost-in-the-Woods, New Jersey." "The Open Road" was a metaphor for a broad highway, room enough for everyone who wanted freedom, and for the fluidity of life, which must never become static...for motion is life, rest is death." He authored five books as well as numerous articles and columns.

He died May 31, 1940 (on the anniversary of Walt Whitman's birth), and Anna placed his ashes near a portrait of Eugene Debs in their home.

"Calvert, Bruce". 1920 United States Federal Census. Retrieved 2015/08/24. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>

"Calvert, Bruce". (1981) In *Indiana Authors and Their Books: 1967-1980*. Crawfordsville, IN: Wabash College. Print. ISLI 016.810 B219I SUPP. 1967-80

Taylor, Robert M., Jr. "Panaceas from Duneland". *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern history* : a publication of the Indiana Historical Society. Winter 1989: 22-39. Print.

"Calvert, Bruce". *Indiana Biography Index Before 1990*. Retrieved 2015/08/24. <https://www.statelib.lib.in.us>

Scope and Contents

This collection includes typed, signed letters from Bruce Calvert in Pigeon-Roost-in-the-Woods, New Jersey ranging from 1929/09/24 to 1930/09/25 regarding the Indiana State Library's holdings of "The Open Road."

Arrangement

This collection is arranged chronologically.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a records transfer from the Indiana Division.

Accruals

No further additions are expected.

Processing Information

Collection processing completed 2005/04 by Jennifer Duplaga. EAD finding aid created 2015/08/24 by Edythe Huffman.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Indiana State Library.

Genre(s)

- Correspondence

Geographic Name(s)

- New Jersey

Personal Name(s)

- Thole, Marie C.

Subject(s)

- Authors--American--Indiana--19th century
- Authors--American--Indiana--20th century
- Booksellers and bookselling